

## INTRODUCTION

The Office of Product and Industry Standards in the Division of Consumer Protection has the responsibility of ensuring that fertilizer and agricultural liming materials distributed in Virginia are properly labeled, registered and meet the labelers guarantee. The Fertilizer and Agricultural Liming Materials Laws provide for the collection and testing of samples of regulated materials and for assessments for variance from guarantee on deficient lots. When it is possible to identify the purchaser of the deficient material, the assessment is paid to that purchaser. These laws protect the consumer and enhance fair competition between manufacturers in the marketplace, as well as provide the basis for service to other State agencies.

During the 2006-2007 fiscal year (FY = July 1 thru June 30), a total of 848,398 tons of fertilizer products were reported sold. This is a decrease of 23,822 tons or 3% below the 2005-2006 reported tonnage of 872,220 tons. This number excludes lime, mulch and peat; but includes gypsum, soil amendments, soil conditioners and horticultural growing media. Farm use tonnage for 2006-2007 was 581,802 tons which is an increase of 59,984 tons or 11% above the farm use tonnage for 2005-2006 of 521,818. Non-farm use tonnage for 2006-2007 was 266,595 tons which is a decrease of 83,807 tons or 24% below the 2005-2006 reported tonnage of 350,402.

The suppliers of agricultural liming material reported 469,036 tons sold during the 2006-2007 fiscal year. This is a decrease of 164,811 tons or 26% below fiscal year 2005-2006 reported tonnage of 633,847.